



May 29, 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RICHMOND POLICE CASE 24-4570**

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On May 5, 2024, Officers from the Richmond Police Department were involved in a use of force incident during a high-risk traffic stop, which is undertaken when the vehicle occupants are suspected of a felony violation.

The high-risk traffic stop followed Officers observing a vehicle leaving the area of a ShotSpotter activation at approximately 10:00 pm – ShotSpotter is an acoustic gunshot detection system that can detect, locate and alert Officers to gunshots. A records check showed the vehicle was reported stolen. In addition, the vehicle had two bullet holes in the windshield. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but it failed to stop, leading them on a high-speed pursuit. Officers pursued the vehicle to the area of 1st St. and West Macdonald Ave., where the vehicle stopped and officers initiated a high-risk traffic stop.

During the felony car stop, an altercation occurred between a bystander, Kwesi Guss, a 44-year-old Richmond resident, and Sgt. Alexander Caine. The bystander, Mr. Guss was ultimately arrested by Sgt. Caine for violating Penal Code section 148(a)(1) - Obstructing a Police Officer. After being transported to the Richmond City Jail, Mr. Guss was booked and ultimately released after signing a promise to appear.

The incident is currently under investigation to ensure that all actions taken were consistent with department policies and procedures. We are committed to maintaining transparency throughout this process. Our Department takes all use of force incidents seriously. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of accountability and professionalism.

While the investigation is being conducted, Sgt. Caine will be temporarily reassigned to an administrative position without contact with the public.

We understand that use of force incidents can be concerning to the community. We ask for the community's patience while conducting a thorough and impartial investigation. We assure you that all findings will be made public as soon as the investigation is concluded, in accordance with legal and policy requirements.

The City of Richmond Police Department is committed to serving our community with integrity, transparency, and respect. We recognize the importance of community trust and are dedicated to fostering open communication.

For any further inquiries, please contact the Public Information Officer at RPDPIO@RichmondPD.net.

